Treasury Department

January 12th 1859

Sir

Your report of the 3d inst accompanying Mr Curran's bill of rent for the last quarter, have been duly received.

I beg you to understand that the request in my letter of the 17th Nov for explanation, did not arise from any opinion or belief entertained by this Department that your proceedings in the manufacture of fine arsenate of lead with its intricacies, had not been faithfully conducted. On the other hand it is due to you to state that as far as its information extends, your management of this business appears to have been excellent.

It being understood that the premises where the alloys were made, and for the use of which rent was continued while the manufacture had ceased, had been used as your private laboratory, it was deemed expedient to ask an explanation whether the whole premises were necessary for the preservation of the public property connected with the process and results.

It is obvious that some plan must be provided for the care and custody of this property. Being of opinion

opinion that it is not worth while to change you with the trouble of seeking and reporting another Man for its custody. I accede to your suggestion that the whole of the Public Property be removed to the lower Story of the building for the use of which the rent of $300 will be allowed from the 1st inst as long as such occupation shall be regarded as necessary. I have accordingly sanctioned Mr Curran's bill for rent to the 31st ultimo & referred it for settlement in your favor.

The future charge for rent will of course be stated at the rate of $300 per ann. instead of that previously charged.

Very respectfully
Your obed Svt

Nowell Cobb
Secretary of the Treasy

Prof J. C. Booth
Philadelphia.

12. Jan. 1859

Hon. H. Cobb

Reply to my Statement

Secy of Treasury